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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

KANSU FARMERS EXPLOITED;  
KWANGTUNG LANDLORDS SELL LAND

FARMERS HAVE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES -- Sinkiang Jih-pao, 21 May 49

Lan-chou -- Much of the heavy taxation which the farmers in Kansu have to bear is not directly levied by the provincial government but by the blood-sucking pao-chia chiefs, who fatten their own pockets. These leeches approach the farmers more often than necessary for regular tax-collection purposes. If the tax is questioned, the farmers are threatened with imprisonment and beating.

In addition, rich city people and bank officials travel from area to area lending seeds and money to the farmers during the planting and cultivating seasons and collect exorbitant interest rates at harvest time. Under these circumstances, farmers in this area are practically without the means to provide food for their families. Usurious practices are performed by the banks in this area under the false title of "farm-relief programs" as a means of attracting profits.

LANDOWNERS SELL LAND CHEAPLY -- Hua Shang Pao, 27 Jul 49

Landlords in the South Kwangtung area now are desperately trying to sell their land cheaply to rich farmers before their entire possessions are lost to the Communists. Although the price of farm land has dropped to almost half that of 1944-45, there are no buyers for large pieces of land, and only a few small pieces of land are being sold to rich farmers, or to fishermen who have never before owned land. Landowners are even allowing those persons who do not have enough money to buy on the installment plan.

The Liberation Army in the Ho-p'u area of Kwangtung, is now collecting 20 percent of the excess food supply owned by the landowners in that area for army rations. The landowners are unwilling to give up their grain, however, and are calling this action thievery.

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